How to change the display name generation for Windows 2000 and Exchange 2000

When you create a new user in the AD, the **Full name** field is always generated in First Last format. In-turn it is this field that sets the **Display Name** field on creation, therefore you end up with a First Last formatted GAL. In many companies, it is desirable to have display names generated in Last, First format. Although there is no way to configure an automatic rule to set this in the UI, you can modify the DisplaySpecifier in the Active Directory to achieve the desired result.

1. Run REGSVR32 ADSIEDIT.DLL
2. Open a new MMC and add the "ADSI Edit" snap-in
3. Right-click on the top node and choose "Connect to"
4. Change the Naming Context to "Configuration Container" and click OK to bind and authenticate
5. Expand the "Configuration Container" node, and then expand the "Configuration" node
6. Expand the "cn=DisplaySpecifiers" node and double-click on "CN=409" (see below for more info on this)
7. In the right-hand pane, get the properties for "CN=user-Display"
8. Scroll to the "createDialog" optional property
9. Set the attribute to **%<sn>, %<givenName>**
10. Click OK to close the dialog
11. In Active Directory Users and Computers, create a new User, the Full Name (and thus, Display Name) will be built as per your rule

NOTES:
a. In step 6, we chose 409 - this is the Locale ID for US English. If you are in a multi-lingual environment you may need to make changes to the other codes. Most of the far eastern codes will be already set
b. In step 9, we can use any LDAP attribute name that appears on the creation dialog, the other obvious attribute is %<initials>
c. The above steps show you how to modify user objects. There is a separate setting for Contacts - change step 7 to "contact-Display"
d. You do not need to close the Users and Computers snap-in, changes are picked up automatically
e. In multi-DC environments, you may need to wait for replication to complete before the UI picks up the changes
f. If you change your AD as per the instructions above, it will not only change the default way the Display Name is built, but also the Full Name (i.e. "cn" field), therefore, users will appear in the chosen format when looking in the Users and Computers snap-in